

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

APR 24 1978

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: Jack Fredrick Myers

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Lima, Ohio February 17, 1927

PRIMARY MEDIA oil

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.: see attached

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION:

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.
Thank you for your cooperation.

187 Kraft Street
Berea, Ohio 44017
216-234-2929

JACK FREDRICK MYERS

- 1927 Born, Lima ,Ohio, February 17
- 1945 Graduated, Central High School, Lima, Ohio.
Honorable mention, Regional Scholastic Awards
Competition for a watercolor
First Prize, local newspaper poster competition
sponsored by the Pepsi-cola Company
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Ste-Croix, Switzerland.

next page please

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- 1974 ASIFA-East Animation Award, First Prize.
 Lima Art Association Exhibit, Lima, Ohio
- 1976 40th Annual Mid-Year Show, Butler Institute of Art,
 Youngstown, Ohio
- Joint show with wife, Summer Theater Lobby,
 Art and Drama Center, Baldwin-Wallace College
- 57th Annual May Show, The Cleveland Museum of Art
- 1977 58th Annual May Show, The Cleveland Museum of Art
- 1978 59th Annual May Show, The Cleveland Museum of Art

Jack Fredrick Myers

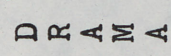
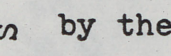
TWO FROM A FLEA MARKET

30" high by 48" wide
Whole egg emulsion tempera,
Tritec and oil with Liquin
glazes on traditional gesso
ground (hide glue, titanium
dioxide, gypsum), masonite
panel

The composition is an examination of symmetry. This is emphasized by the asymmetrical placement (an anomaly) of the dragonfly, whose wings and tail are physically symmetrical. The open halves of the autograph album and the photograph album reinforce the wing pattern conceptually as does all other compositional lines and masses.

Of primary concern is the break-up of the surface areas and the establishment of relationships between the negative and positive shapes. Chiaroscuro is employed to visually pull some areas forward and to suppress others, providing a sculptural illusion ambiguous with the flat surface. Representational objects have been increased over actual size exactly 2.5 times (an ambiguity) and they have been altered or distorted where needed to conform to compositional requirements.

There is a relationship between the two albums in their references to the theater. Note the newspaper clipping adhered to the inside cover of the autograph album. The photo album includes pictures which suggest the owner was an actress or performer, and its small size suggests having been chosen for portability as a travelling performer might have done.

The basis for the design of the page edges of the photo album are the words drama, entrances and exits. No special attempt has been made to permit the letters to stand out clearly, although one should be able to discern in the upper half of the page edges on the left the letters ENTR and in the lower half ANCES.  is formed by the page edges upper left and  by the page edges upper right.

Other "hidden" symbols and words extend this concept:

Greek masks for Comedy and Tragedy

(Phrase:) Dramatis Personae

(Word:) Love (several places)

(Quotations:)

To be or not to be [Hamlet, Act III, scene I]

The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience
of the king [Hamlet, Act III, scene II]

Under the greenwood tree

Who loves to lie with me,

And turn his merry note

Unto the sweet bird's throat,

Come hither, come hither, come ~~h~~ither, come hither:*

Here we shall see

No enemy

But winter and rough weather.

[Amiens' song from As You Like It, Act II, scene V]

The Greek masks form the breasts of a shape which suggests a female torso. Elsewhere in the work is another female torso and also the word virgin.

There are the Zodiac signs for life (the Sun), love (Venus) and health (Jupiter) depicted and repeated six times (a multiple of three).

The image of King Kong (in one part of the painting) roars in anger as Fay Wray (Ann) and Bruce Cabot (Jack) escape from

* Repeated 4 times rather than 3 (incongruity)

Kong's cliff refuge by climbing down a hanging vine (in another part of the painting.) There is considerable sexual symbolism attached to this story, and, of course, it is a drama. It has also become a sort of hallmark (one of several) appearing in all of my works. Some others are the horses head, the dragonfly and the skull.

In this work, the skull is designed to be viewed from more than one perspective. Most obvious is a 3/4 view facing to the left, but with a little study a 3/4 view to the right should come into view (a sort of Gestalt switch) and also a profile view can be distinguished.

The dragonfly is associated with immortality. The superstitious have called it the devil's darning needle. Superstition and death are basic components of both life and drama. Written in its wings are the words of such symbolism. The dragonfly sits on the inside front cover of the autograph album, the cover of which employs two dragonflies in its design (the cover appears virtually actual size in my serigraph COLLECTIONS). Note that the right half of the tail design is created by spelling out the scientific classification: ODONATA, and this word is reflected as a mirror image on the left side. (Recall Hamlet's remarks to the players in Act III, scene II, "...the purpose of playing, whose end both first and now, was and is, to hold, as 't were, the mirror up to nature." Thus suggesting that drama and life compose a form of symmetry. Herein is the concept of Two from a Flea Market--symmetry--life and death, good and evil, yin and yang, life and the arts, between art and art, within the natural world, within art, within ourselves.)

The representational elements of this work are depicted as if lying on a flat surface. When the work is hung vertically on a wall hopefully they appear incongruous--suspended as in defiance of gravity.

The work also includes a self portrait (not one of the obvious representational features.)

TWO FROM A FLEA MARKET was begun in May 1977 and completed in February 1979, consuming approximately 1200 hours in aggregate.

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MAY 80

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FULL NAME: Jack Fredrick Myers

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Lima, Ohio February 17, 1927

PRIMARY MEDIA oil

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

Cleveland Institute of Art

(Currently pursuing MFA at Kent State University)

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

1979 43rd Annual Midyear Show, Butler Institute of American Art
Fourth Annual NOVA Painting Show: 25 Cleveland Painters
1980 1980 National Print Competition, San Diego State University
1979 Surrealism Now, Spaces Gallery

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Butler Institute of American Art

AWARDS:

Purchase Prize, 1979 Midyear Show, Butler Institute of
American Art

Special Mention for Painting, 60th Annual May Show
The Cleveland Museum of Art

PRESENT POSITION:

Instructor, Cooper School of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

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FRASMENTS:

NOTES

Visually, the letters in a word, the word, the phrase (a series of words) and the sentence constitute a form of serial imagery. The letters, the words, as well as the patterns of letters within words, recur in established sequences.

1. "To return to the question of obscurity: when all exceptions have been made, and after admitting the possible existence of minor 'difficult' poets whose public must always be small, I believe that the poet naturally prefers to write for as large and miscellaneous audience as possible, and that it is the half-educated and ill-educated, rather than the uneducated, who stand in his way: I myself should like an audience which could neither read nor write. The most useful poetry, socially, would be one which could cut across all the present stratifications of public taste—stratifications which are perhaps a sign of social disintegration. The ideal medium for poetry, to my mind, and the most direct means of social 'usefulness' for poetry, is the theatre. In a play of Shakespeare you get several levels of significance. For the simplest auditors there is the plot, for the more thoughtful the character and conflict of character, for the more literary the words and phrasing, for the more musically sensitive the rhythm, and for auditors of greater sensitiveness and understanding a meaning which reveals itself gradually. And I do not believe that the classification of audience is so clear cut as this; but rather that the sensitiveness of every auditor is acted upon by all of these elements at once, though in different degrees of consciousness." Eliot, T. S., The Use of Poetry & the Use of Criticism, pp. 152, 153. London: Faber and Faber, 1975.
2. Ambiguity, anomaly, incongruity.
3. Confluency: Michael Heizer as quoted by Lawrence Alloway in "Site Inspection". Art Forum 15: 49-55, Oct. '76.
4. T. S. Eliot The Hollow Men, lines 6-12.
5. Ezra Pound Hugh Selwyn Mauberly, Part V lines 1-4.
6. Omar Khayyám Rubáiyát, Edward Fitzgerald trans., First Edition, quatrain LI.

June '77

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AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION:

Instructor, Cooper School of Art

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NOV 12 1976
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FULL NAME: Jack Frederick Myers

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 2-17-27 Lima, Ohio (Allen County)

PRIMARY MEDIA Mixed Technique (Egg emulsion tempera and oil)
also: watercolor and acrylics

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

Cleveland School (Institute) of Art 1947-1949

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN: See attached

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Many private collections

AWARDS: See attached

PRESENT POSITION:

Instructor, Cooper School of Art , Cleveland, Ohio

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